

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11484 261229Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /122 W
-----057491 261230Z /11/65

R 241800Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8339
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11484

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 2. CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG ET CU SU UR
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN ALARM AT DEVELOPMENTS IN ERITREA

REF: CAIRO 11248

SUMMARY: IF EGYPTIAN PRESS CAN BE BELIEVED, WELL-
KNOWN GOE FEARS THAT ESCALATION OF FIGHTING IN ERITREA
WILL INEVITABLY INVOLVE ETHIOPIAN-CUBAN-SOVIET
ENCROACHMENTS INTO SUDAN MAY BE COMING TRUE SOONER THAN
EXPECTED. EGYPTIANS AT ANY RATE PREPARING FOR
WORST: GAMASY HAS TOLD WAR COLLEGE GROUPS THAT IF
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SUDAN THREATENED "WE HAVE PLANS TO MOVE MILITARILY
INTO SUDAN." END SUMMARY.

1. GUMHURIYYA'S MAIN STORY APRIL 24 CAPPED BY OMINOUS
HEADLINE: "ETHIOPIAN TROOP CONCENTRATIONS INCLUDING
SOVIETS AND CUBANS ALONG SUDANESE BORDER". GUMHURIYYA
CITES SUNA REPORT THAT CONCENTRATIONS, WHICH ALSO

INCLUDE PDRY FORCES HAVE VIOLATED SUDANESE FRONTIER ON GROUND AND PENETRATED SUDANESE AIR SPACE ON PRETEXT OF "HOT PURSUIT" OF ERITREAN REBELS. SUDANESE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL REPORTEDLY HOLDING EMERGENCY MEETING TO DETERMINE RESPONSE. GUMHURIYYA NOTES PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU CURRENTLY IN HAVANA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH CASTRO AND CONCLUDES THAT ETHIOPIANS ARE PREPARING TO LAUNCH DECISIVE MILITARY ATTACK AGAINST ERITREANS.

2. COMMENT: AS MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR SIDQI TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 20 (REFTEL), EGYPTIANS FEARFUL THAT ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE NORTH FROM HUMERA WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN LARGE SCALE HOT-PURSUIT ACTIONS ACROSS FRONTIERS. IN GOE VIEW, VIOLATIONS OF SUDANESE SOVEREIGNTY CERTAIN TO DRAG SUDAN INTO CONFRONTATION WITH ETHIOPIA. AS FIGHTING INTENSIFIES IN ERITREA, EGYPTIAN JITTERS OF POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN TROOPS FIGHTING INSIDE SUDAN CERTAIN TO INTENSIFY. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT AS RECENTLY AS LAST WEEK SADAT AND GAMASY TOLD NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUPS THAT GOE COULD "NOT TOLERATE ANY (SOVIET/CUBAN) ACTION AGAINST THE SUDAN" (SADAT) AND IF SUDAN THREATENED "WE HAVE PLANS TO MOVE INTO SUDAN (GAMASY). EILTS

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